
New perfin from Finland—the first on revenue

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The new *LAPE 2000 Finland Specialized Catalog*, a tome covering 648 pages of in-depth information about the postal issues of Finland, the Aland Islands, and related areas for the first time includes three pages of informative facts about all known Finnish perfin patterns.

As expected, Finland's ten perfin patterns are listed, illustrated, and arranged as to rarity with dates of use and owners identified. A surprise entry is an eleventh pattern, a W which is listed with the qualifying statement that "information on this pattern is insecure, as no postal item has been found to this day."

The W perfin, a pattern first brought to my attention by Perfins Club member Joe Laura, is believed to have been owned by the Waldhof Company of Käkisalmi, a town located at the time of use in the 1930s in Finnish Karelia. When Karelia was absorbed by Russia after World War II, the town acquired a new Russian name, Priozersk. It is located about 75 miles north of St. Petersburg.

However, one Finnish perfin not listed in the *LAPE* catalog—a pattern I have just discovered—is a large 12-hole S, not to be confused with the already known small S. pattern of Finland's Sampo Company. My new Finland perfin is illustrated here.

The large S pattern is in a 1950 cinema tax stamp, listed as #8 in *B.-E. Saarinen's Finland Revenue Stamp Catalogue*.

It is difficult to conjecture just what the large S pattern stands for or who its owner was. There is a possibility that the large S might be for the first letter of Finland's government printers, Setelipaino, who printed the cinema tax stamps.

In any case, we have a new discovery of not only the twelfth Finnish perfin pattern, but what surprisingly is the first perfin ever found on a Finnish revenue stamp.



Editor's note: The new S perfin is actually the 13th Finnish perfin. *The World Perfins Catalog* also lists a philatelic perfin, ABOEX/84, issued for a stamp exhibition in Turku.
